

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A media data audio-visual device for viewing media data, comprising:

an audio-visual portion configured to display the media data;

a metadata storing portion configured to store metadata corresponding to the media data;

a communication portion configured to transmit the metadata externally and receive external metadata to be stored in the metadata storing portion;

a display portion configured to display a time relationship between selected media data and selected metadata based on time data embedded in the media data and in the metadata; and

a synchronizing portion configured to extract ~~characteristic data~~ a feature amount that is stored in the metadata, search for corresponding ~~characteristic data~~ feature amount in associated media data, and to synchronize the metadata with the associated media data to correct any time differences between the metadata and the media data caused by inaccurate time data in the metadata.

Claim 2 (Original): The media data audio-visual device according to Claim 1, further comprising a metadata creating portion configured to enable a user to create metadata.

Claim 3 (Original): The media data audio-visual device according to Claim 2, wherein the metadata creating portion includes a disclosure selection tool configured to enable a user to designate whether created metadata is to be disclosed externally.

Claim 4 (Original): The media data audio-visual device according to Claim 1, further comprising a search condition inputting portion configured to enable a user to input search conditions for searching the external metadata.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The media data audio-visual device according to Claim 1, wherein the audio-visual portion displays the metadata and the media data with corrected timing corrected by the synchronizing portion.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A metadata sharing system, comprising:
a plurality of client media data audio-visual devices each configured to display media data and metadata corresponding to the media data; and
a server configured to exchange data among the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices,
wherein each of the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices includes:
an audio-visual portion configured to display the media data;
a metadata storing portion configured to store the metadata;
a communication portion configured to transmit the metadata to the server and to receive metadata from the server to be stored in the metadata storing portion; and
a display portion configured to display a time relationship between the media data and the received metadata based on time data included in the received metadata and in the media data,

wherein the server includes a metadata storing portion configured to store the metadata transmitted from the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices,

wherein each of the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices includes a search request inputting portion configured to enable a user to input a search request for searching the metadata stored in the server, and wherein the server includes a metadata searching portion configured to search for the metadata in the metadata storing portion that corresponds to the search request, and

wherein the server includes a metadata creator data storing portion configured to store metadata creator data identifying a creator of specific metadata and incrementing a value associated with the metadata creator data each time the specific metadata is exchanged among the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices, ~~and~~ wherein the metadata creator data is added to the search request of the search request inputting portion, and wherein the creator of the specific metadata does not correspond to a client media data audio-visual device at which a search request for searching for the specific metadata was input.

Claim 8 (Original): The metadata sharing system according to Claim 7, wherein the metadata creating portion includes a disclosure selection tool configured to enable a user to designate whether created metadata is to be disclosed externally.

Claim 9 (Original): The metadata sharing system according to Claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices includes a metadata creating portion configured to enable a user to create the metadata.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The metadata sharing system according to Claim 7, wherein the server is further configured to transmit search results from the metadata searching portion to a requesting media data audio-visual device of the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices such that a desired metadata from the search results is selected by a user.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The metadata sharing system according to Claim 7, further comprising a user input interface configured to input a search request by a user for searching metadata corresponding to media data scheduled to be broadcast at a future time, and wherein each of the plurality of client media data audio-visual devices is configured to set a recording reservation to record the media data scheduled to be broadcast using search results from the metadata searching portion.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The metadata sharing system according to Claim 7, wherein the metadata creator data is obtained using creator authentication data included in the metadata.

Claims 15-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (New): The media data audio-visual device according to Claim 1, wherein the synchronizing portion is configured to couple the metadata with the associated media data

by synchronizing the metadata and the media data so that the extracted feature amount timely matches the searched for corresponding feature amount.